MY 1358 DAYS IN LONDON

Recorded by Mal Berisha
Former Ambassador of Albania to the United Kingdom 2012 - 2015

www.Malberisha.com

SOFT POWER & PUBLIC DIPLOMACY IN PRACTICE:

- Highlighting the contribution of Albanians to western civilization through the figure of our National Hero, George Kastrioti Skanderbeg
- Raising global awareness on the noble values of Besa, religious tolerance, and the rescue of Jews during WWII
- Promoting Albanian culture through music and arts
- Presenting our ancient history and heritage through the publications of British authors
- Fostering bilateral relations through local cooperation and community building

Embassy of the Republic of Albania
33 St George's Drive, SW1V 4DG
London

Embassy of the Republic of Kosova
8 John Street, WC1N 2ES London

Two Albanian Ambassadors, Dr Muhamet Hamiti, the first Ambassador of the Republic of Kosova to the Court of St James's and Mr Mal Berisha, Ambassador of the Republic of Albania.

London, 17 February 2012.

Credentials Ceremony of the Albanian Ambassador in London

27 June 2013: Buckingham Palace – Albanian Ambassador presents credentials to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. The Ambassador presents Her Majesty with an Albanian lahuta, handmade in filigree an Albanian artist, which was displayed at the Palace.

33

Credentials presented to Irish President HE Michael D. Higgins

10 October 2013: The Credentials ceremony takes place in Dublin at Áras an Uachtárain, in the presence of the Minister, Alex White, and other high officials of the Irish government. The Ambassadors presents HE The President with a collection of his poems translated into Albanian.

An historic day: Unveiling of Skanderbeg's bust in London

28 November 2012: To mark the 100th anniversary of Independence, the Embassy of Albania placed the Bust of the Albanian National Hero, Skanderbeg at the address: 113 Inverness Terrace, London W2 6JH. The unveiling ceremony was attended by the Lord Mayor of Westminister, Susy Burbridge, local authorities and the Albanian community in London and elsewhere.

George Kastrioti-SKANDERBEG
1405 - 1468
INVINCIBLE ALBANIAN NATIONAL HERO
DEFENDER OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION

Grateful to those whose hard work made possible the placement of Scanderbeg's bust

Cllr. Susie Burbridge, Lord Mayor of Westminster (centre), Mr David Lloyd (sitting) and Albanian diplomats Mr Mal Berisha, Dr Teuta Starova (right) and Dr Xhoana Papakostandini (left).

The bust of Scanderbeg in London on Google Map

Memorial

Memorials | Subjects | This day | Lost memorials | Puzzle corner | Map | Types

Credit for this entry to:
Alan Patient of
www.plaquesoflondon.co.uk

Tweet 0 Like 8

Bust: George Skanderbeg

Erection date: 28/11/2012

Inscription

{Front of plinth:}
George Kastrioti Skanderbeg, 1405 - 1468, invincible Albanian national hero, defender of western civilization.

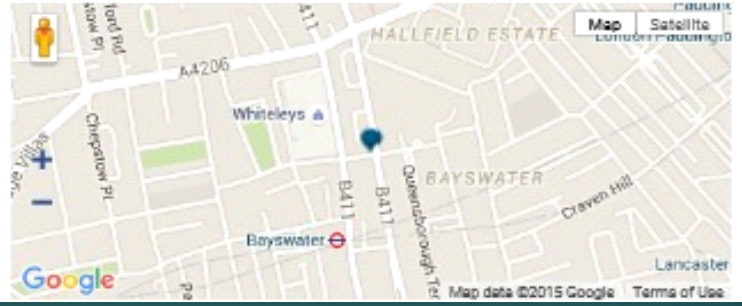
{Right of plinth:}
Placed on: 28.11.2012, Initiated by: David Lloyd, Opened by Mal Berisha Rep. of Albania, Cllr Robert Davis DL and Cllr Susie Burbridge. Supported by: Sebra and Bra, crafted by Kreshnik Xhiku.

The unveiling took place on the 100th anniversary of Albanian independence.

Site: Lady Samuel's Garden (2 memorials)

W2, Corner of Inverness Terrace and Porchester Gardens

Go to map of other memorials in this area



Subjects commemorated

George Skanderbeg
Albanian national hero. Born George Kastrioti (or Castriota) Skanderbeg and a...
Read More

Created by

Show all 7

BRA
Westminster City Council informs us that this acronym stands for 'Bayswater R...
Read More

SEBRA
South East Bayswater Residents Association. A group formed to protect the spe...
Read More

Mal Berisha
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Albania. Born in Tropoja. He ...
Read More

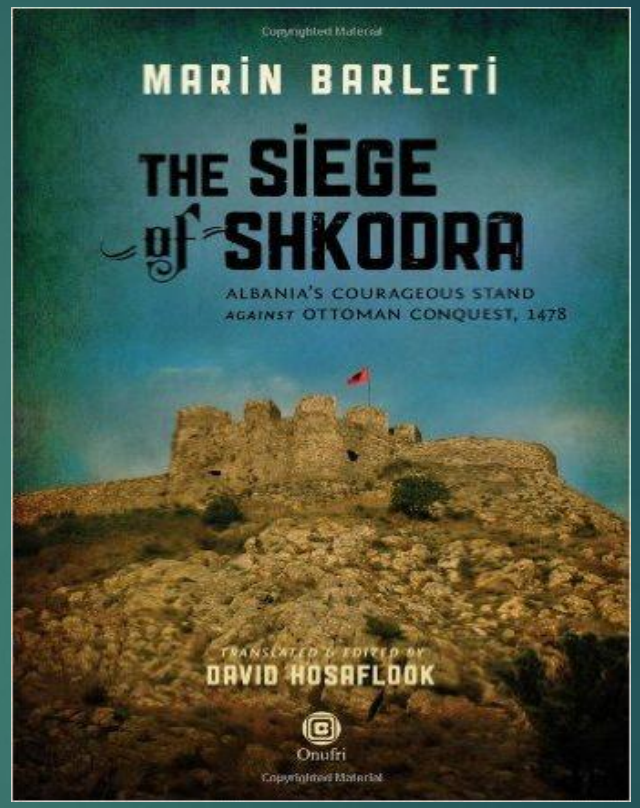
Susie Burbridge
Westminster City Councillor.
Read More

Robert Davis
Solicitor and Westminster Councillor. Mayor of Westminster 1996/97.
Read More

Albanian diplomats place the bust of Skanderbeg in the Arberesh village of Munxhufuni, Italy

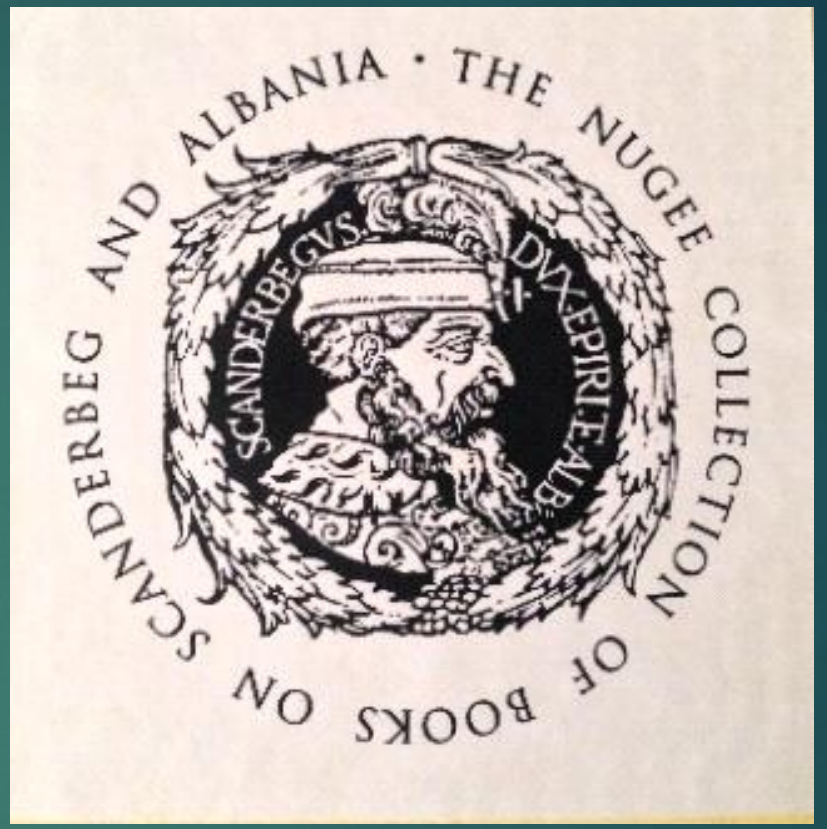
4 August 2013: Another bust of Skanderbeg is placed and unveiled by the Albanian diplomats accredited in London and Rome at Skanderbeg Square, Montecilfone, Italy, in the presence of regional and local authorities.

Marin Barleti's "*The Siege of Shkodra*" English edition launched at the Albanian Embassy in London



18 Mars 2014: The Embassy of Albania hosts the book launch of *The Siege of Shkodra* translated by David Hosaflook, an American who has been living in Albania for some 23 years.

A collection of antique books on Scanderbeg



16 November 2012: The Embassy hosts an extraordinary exhibition of the Nugge Collection: original antique books on of Skanderbeg from the XV - XIX century. Patricia Nugge is a member of the AAA.

“NËNTORI I DYTË” film shown in London

12 September 2013: “Rich Mix” cinema and cultural center in London shows “*The Second November*” in partnership with the Embassy of Albania and the “*Albanian Cinema Project*”.

Lord Bates presented with the "*Gjergj Kastrioti Skenderbeu*" award at the House of Lords

12 February 2015: On behalf of HE The President of the Republic of Albania, Ambassador Mal Berisha present the award to Lord Bates during a ceremony held at the House of Lords in the presence of the Ambassador of Kosova, diplomats and mebers of the Albanian comunity.

Celebrating the legacy of St Mother Teresa

Mother Teresa remembered in the heart of the Church of England: WESTMINSTER ABBEY

23 November 2012: Lord Alan Watson organizes an exhibition on Mother Teresa in the Crypt of Westminster Abbey. The opening ceremony was attended by members of both Houses of Parliament, diplomats, religious leaders, as well as the President of Mother Teresa Foundation, Mrs Liri Berisha.

A Mess to honour Mother Teresa at the Church of Apostuls in Pimlico - Victoria London.

21 tetor 2013: Cardinal Cormac Murphy conducted a mess to honor the contribution of Mother Teresa, later to be St Mother Teresa. Albanian and Brits were in attendance.

- Raising global awareness on the noble values of Besa, religious tolerance and the rescue of Jews during WWII

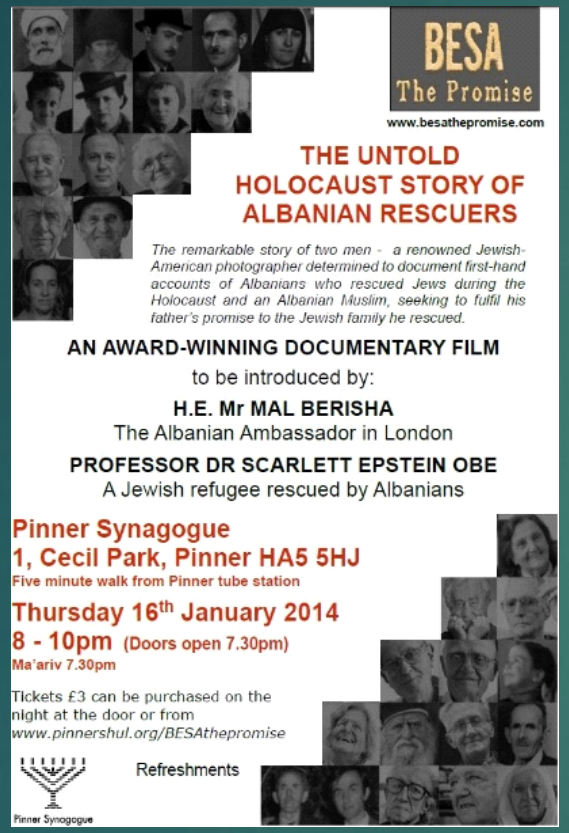
Prof Scarlett Epstein awarded at The Wiener Library

22 November 2012: The biggest Jewish Library in Europe Wienner Library, hosts the Ambassadors of Albania and Israel and Prof. SCARLETT EPSTEIN, who survived the Nazi's persecution thanks to Albania to bring to the general public the untold story of the rescue of Jews in Albania during the Holocaust.

Evening at the Pinner Synagogue – Remembering the martyrs of Geto

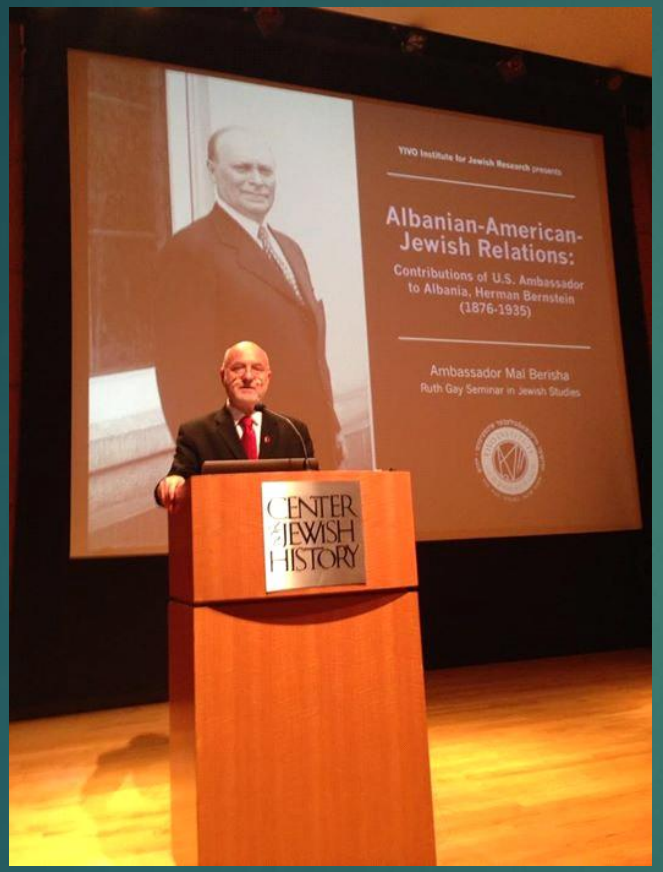
<u>7 prill 2013</u>: "*Resistance and Rescue*" Albanian Ambassador attends Yom Hashoah– evening to mark 70th anniversary of the uprising of Warshava Geto.

The untold story of Albanian rescuers: a talk by Ambassador Mal Berisha at the Pinner Synagogue in London


BESA
The Promise
www.besathepromise.com
THE UNTOLD HOLOCAUST STORY OF ALBANIAN RESCUERS
The remarkable story of two men - a renowned Jewish-American photographer determined to document first-hand accounts of Albanians who rescued Jews during the Holocaust and an Albanian Muslim, seeking to fulfil his father's promise to the Jewish family he rescued.
AN AWARD-WINNING DOCUMENTARY FILM
to be introduced by:
H.E. Mr MAL BERISHA
The Albanian Ambassador in London
PROFESSOR DR SCARLETT EPSTEIN OBE
A Jewish refugee rescued by Albanians
Pinner Synagogue
1, Cecil Park, Pinner HA5 5HJ
Five minute walk from Pinner tube station
Thursday 16th January 2014
8 - 10pm (Doors open 7.30pm)
Ma'ariv 7.30pm
Tickets £3 can be purchased on the night at the door or from www.pinnershul.org/BESAthepromise
Refreshments
Pinner Synagogue

16 January 2014: The film Besa - The Promise showed at the Pinner Synagogue introduced by Ambassador Mal Berisha and Prof Scarlet Epstein, in the presence of British Jewish leaders and an audience of over 450 people from the local Jewish community.

A talk at the YIVO Institute of Jewish studies in New York


YIVO Institute for Jewish Research presents
Albanian-American-Jewish Relations:
Contributions of U.S. Ambassador to Albania, Herman Bernstein (1876-1935)
Ambassador Mal Berisha
Ruth Gay Seminar in Jewish Studies
CENTER for JEWISH HISTORY

14 December 2014: HE Mal Berisha gives a talk on Albanian-Jewish relations at YIVO Institute of Jewish Research, New York City attended by leaders of the American Jewish community, researchers, scholars and Albanians in the US.

Jewish Centre JW3 welcomes the Ambassadors of Albania and Kosova to celebrate inter-religious harmony

25 January 2015: Ambassadors of Albania and Kosova attend the International Holocaust Remembrance Day at Jewish Centre JW3. The Albanian Besa and inter-religious tolerance was the topic of the evening.

A talk by the Albanian Ambassador Mal Berisha at the US Embassy in London on the life of Herman Bernstein

Embassies of

Albania Israel Lithuania United States

The Ambassador of the United States of America
in association with
the Ambassadors of Albania, Israel and Lithuania
requests the pleasure of the company of

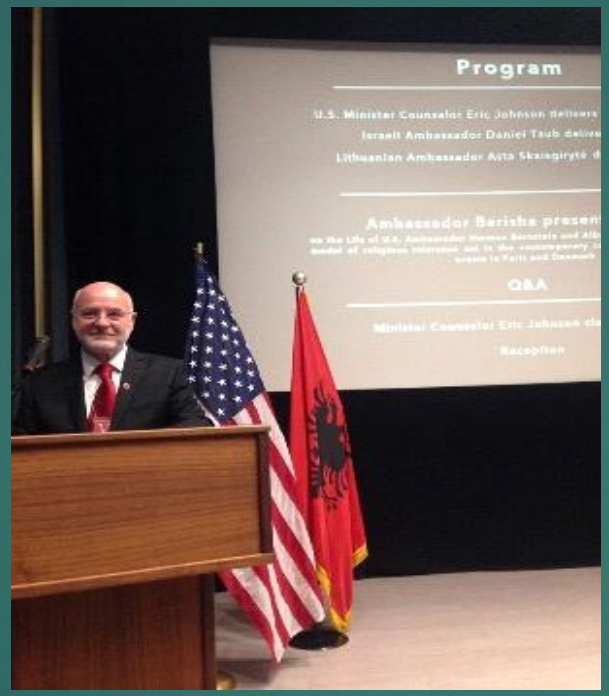
.....

at a talk
by Ambassador Mal Berisha of the Republic of Albania
entitled, "Life of U.S. Ambassador Herman Bernstein
and Albanian Jewish Relations as a model of religious tolerance
set in the contemporary context
of the recent tragic events in Paris and Denmark"
followed by a reception.

on June 4, 2015
from 6.00 to 7.30 p.m.

R.S.V.P by May 20, 2015, latest

American Embassy
24 Grosvenor Square
London W1K 6AH
Dress: Business attire



4 June 2015: The Ambassador of the United States of America in association with the Ambassadors of Albania, Israel, and Lithuania host a talk by HE Mal Berisha on the life of US Ambassador Herman Bernstein and Albanian Jewish relations as a model of religious tolerance at the US Embassy in London.

- Promoting Albanian culture through music and arts

12 May 2012: The Albanian National Theatre performs for the first time in its 70 years history at the "*Shakespeare's Globe Theatre*", in London. They played Henry VI in Albanian.

The Albanian polyphonic music: a Talk at the Albanian Embassy

22 May 2013: Dr Eckhart Pistrick, a lecturer of Ethnomusicology at Martin Luther Halle University gives a talk about the Albanian polyphony.

British Composer ROXANNA PANUFNIK in Tirana

13 September 2013: The Embassy of Albania organizes a performance in Tirana of *Autumn in Albania* composed by Roxanna Panufnik and her attendance at the premiere. This piece was previously played by Mozart's London Orchestra and famous violinist, Tasmine Little.

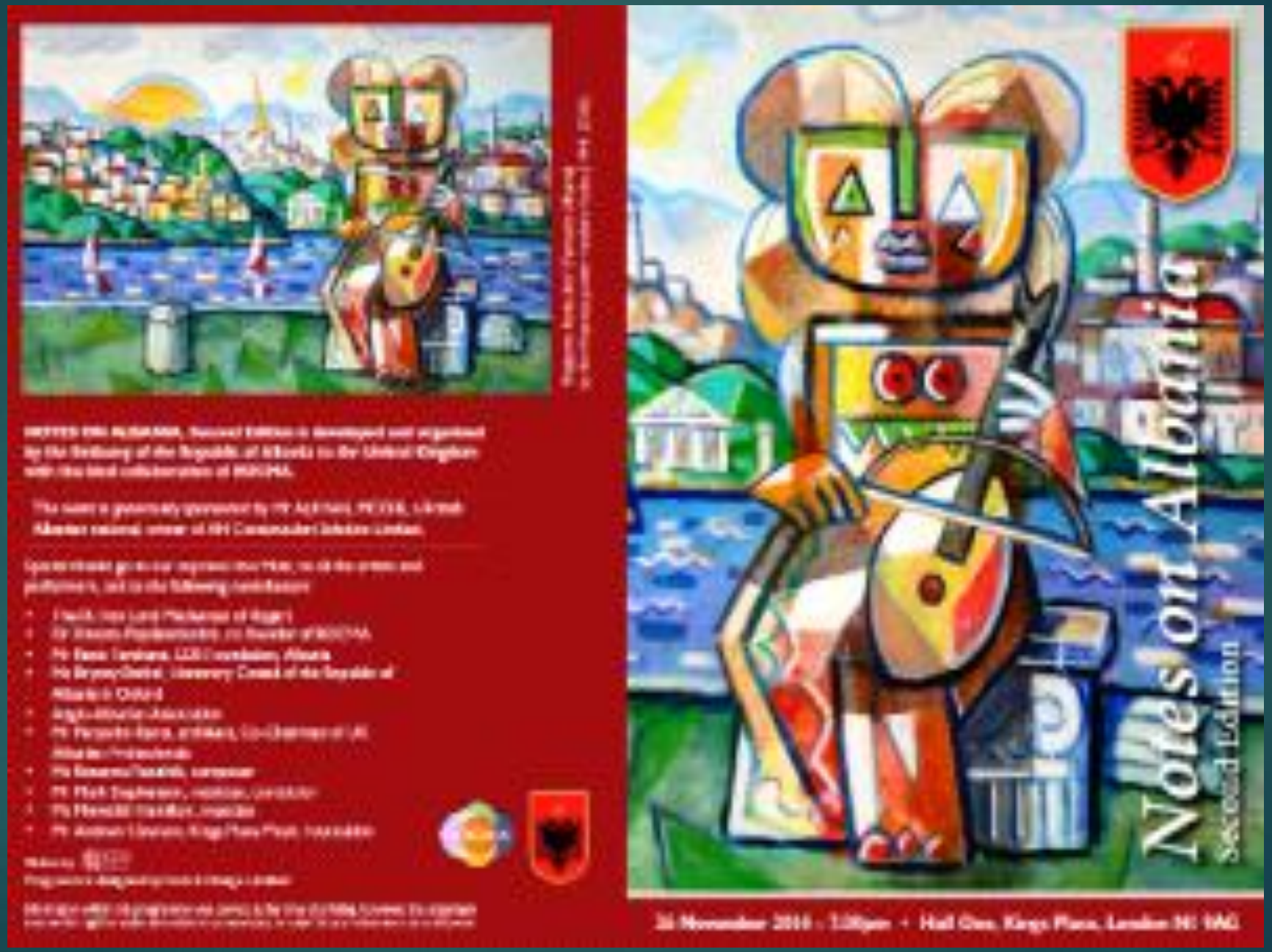
NOTES ON ALBANIA, I EDITION - Royal College of Music

16 December 2013: The Albanian Embassy organises the first ever classical concert in London to promote the country through the performance of internationally acclaimed Albanian artists such as the soprano Ermonela Jaho and violinist Alda Dizdari.

A British choir sings in Albanian

11 August 2014:

Albanian Folk Songs by the Albanian British composer Thoma Simaku are performed by the National Youth Choir of Great Britain in a program entitled "*Europa: Incognito - an exploration of music from Estonia, Norway, Albania, Sweden, Bulgaria, and Ireland*", at Tonbridge School Chapel in Kent.


Noli si Albania
Second Edition

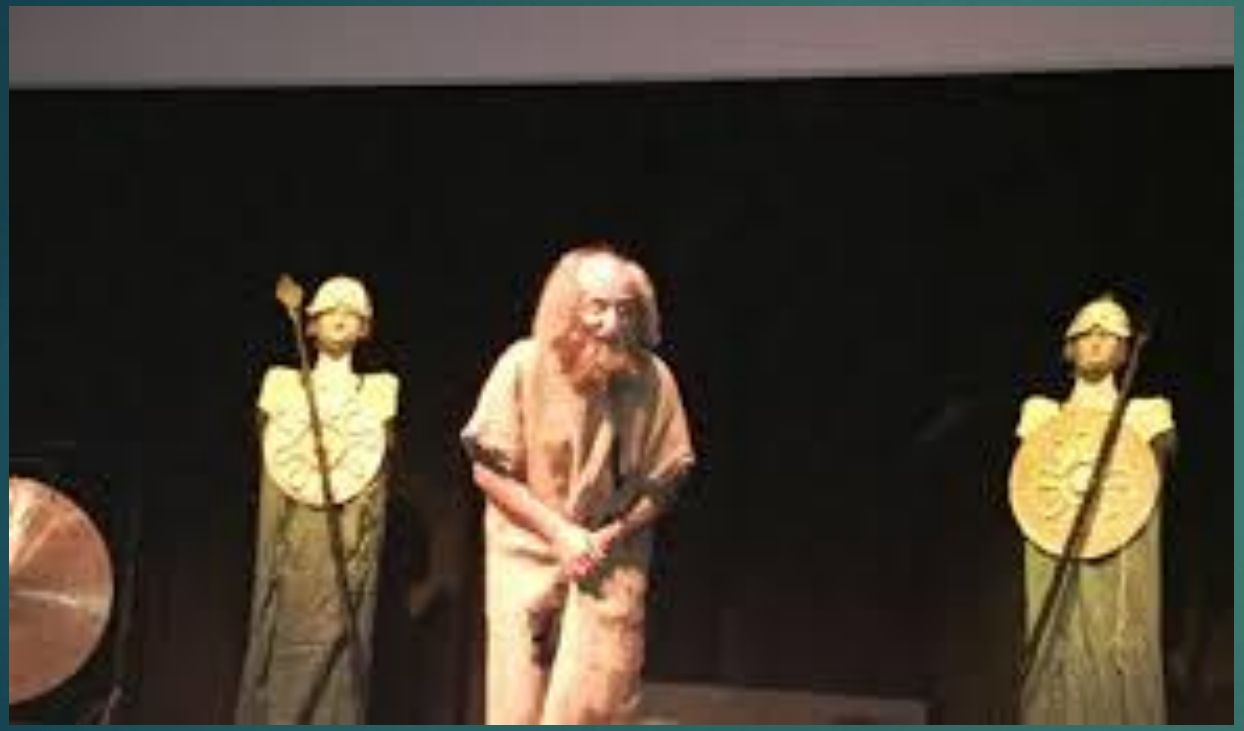
NOTES ON ALBANIA II Edition, 26 November 2014

26 November 2014: The Embassy of Albania organizes the II Edition of Notes on Albania to mark the 102nd Anniversary of Independence. The event is held under the auspice of Lord Mclennan of Rogart and is led by the acclaimed soprano Inva Mula, pianist Genc Tukici, including spoken word by Robert Wilton.

The Embassy of Albania brings the great Albanian Actor Mirush Kabashi at Kings Place in London

The Ambassador of Albania
requests the pleasure of your company
to a theatre show
The True Apology of Socrates
by Costas Varnalis
Adapted and played by Mirush Kabashi
Thursday, 23 October 2014
from 8:00pm to 9:15 pm
Kings Place/ Hall Two
90 York Way
London N1 9AG
RSVP: mal.berisha@mfa.gov.al

Mirush Kabashi performing at Kings Place Theatre and at the Albanian Embassy in London, 23 October 2014



An exhibition of the Albanian painter BASHKIM AHMETAJ – IZANO at Europe House in London
A Homage for Edward Lear

28 May 2015: The Embassy of Albania opens an exhibition on Edward Lear with paintings of Bashkim Ahmetaj-Izan. The opening ceremony was presided over by the Head of the European Commission Representation in the United Kingdom, Jacqueline Minor and the Albania Ambassador.

Together We Stand

Flag raising ceremony at the Olympic Village in London, London 2012

23 July 2012: Albanian Embassy meets and grrets the Albanian athletes to the Olympic Games London 2012.

Albanian wine tasting at the British Parliament, London

17 October 2012: The Embassy organises a Wine Tasting Party at the House of Commons. Various Albanian wines from Albania and Kosova such as, *Arbëri, Bardha, Çobo, Skënderbeu, Kokomani and Stone Castle* were enjoyed by all those present.

Director of the Centre for Albanian Studies in London, Mr Bejtullah Destani gives a talk at the Albanian Embassy

10 September 2012: A talk by Bejtullah Destani on the History of the Anglo Albanian Association, founded in 1912.

RITA ORA visits the Albanian Embassy in London

3 February 2013: Kosova-born British Pop Star, Rita Ora visits the Albanian Embassy. She is welcomed by the Ambassadors of Albania and Kosova, fans from the Albanian community, and local and national media.

HE Lirim Greicevci introducing Honorary Ambassador Rita Ora at the Embassy of the Republic of Kosova, London. Former PM Toni Blair was present on that day.

Rita Ora named Honorary Ambassador of the Republic of Kosova

The Embassy of Kosova in London hosts a ceremony to present pop star Rita Ora with the title of Honorary Ambassador, in the presence of the President, HE Mrs. Atifete Jahjaga and former British Prime Minister, Mr. Tony Blair, other dignitaries, and British media.

HE The President and Rita Ora at the Kosova Embassy

Two Great Friends of Kosova: Lord Robertson and Sir Noel Malcolm

Albania and Kosova represented at the international fair of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea

A book launch hosted by the Embassy of Kosova: "*Coercive Diplomacy of NATO in Kosovo*" by Dr Enver Bytyci

30 May 2015: The Embassy of Kosova in London organizes a talk by Dr Enver Bytyçi, in the presence of diplomats, researchers, and members of the Albanian community in the United Kingdom. British MB Mark Prichard attended the event.

BBC TV interviews the Ambassadors of Kosova and Albania

23 July 2014: The BBC shows a program on Rita Ora and her Albanian origin. Interviews of the two Albanian Ambassadors are also featured in the program.

Anglo - Albanian Association and its activities with both Embassies, launching books and organizng various activities

www.Malberisha.com

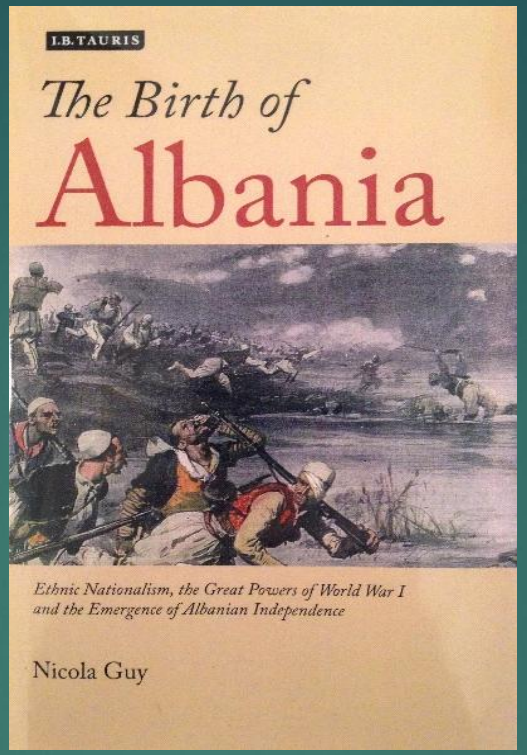
The Anglo-Albanian Association:

Established in London in 1912 by Miss Edith Durham and Aubrey Herbert, diplomat, scholar and Member of Parliament, to champion Albania's right for independence.

Books of British authors written about Albania and Kosova launched under the auspice of two Embassies

"*Agents of Empire*" by Noel Malcolm launched at the Albanian Embassy

2 June 2015: Prof Sir Noel Malcolm presents his latest book at the Albanian Embassy in London in the presence of renowned British writers, historians, journalists, academics, and diplomats.

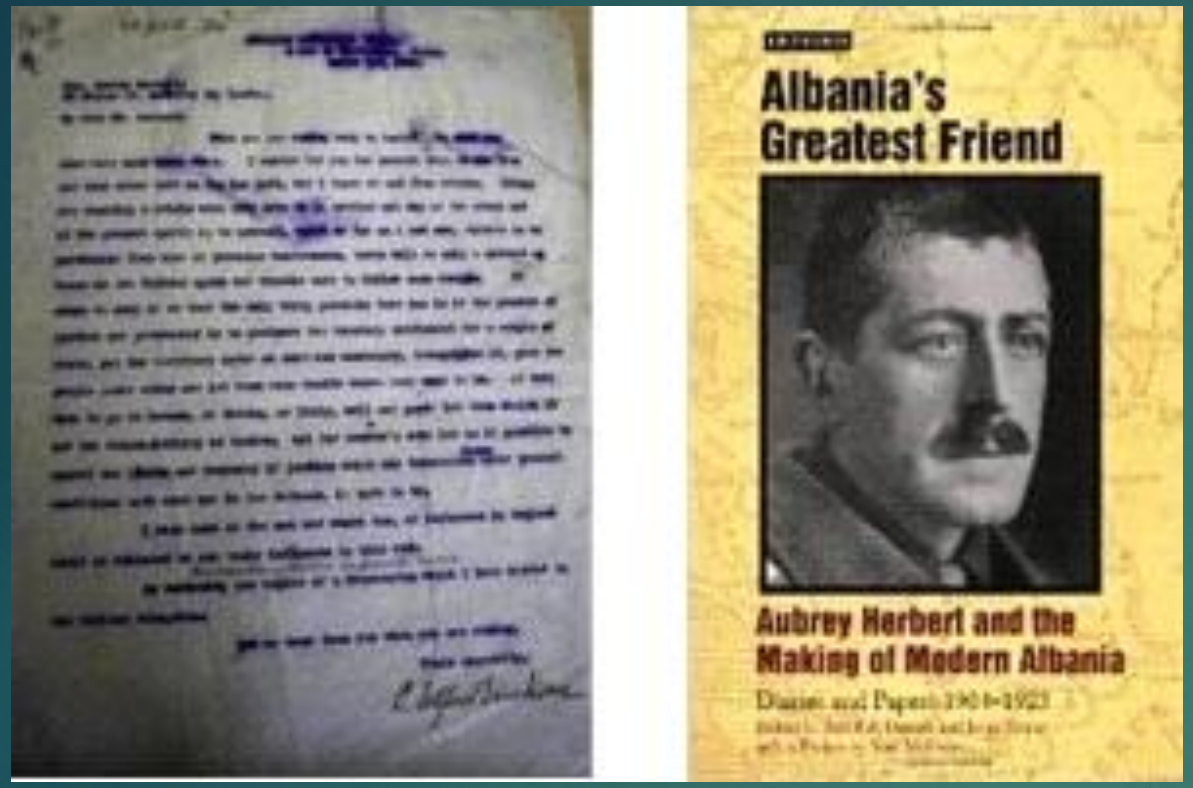


16 May 2012: British scholar Dr. Nicola Guy launches her book "***The Birth of Albania***" at the Albanian Embassy.

A talk on SPECIAL OPERATIONS EXECUTIVE at the Albanian Embassy

26 February 2013: Anglo Albanian Association and the Embassy of Albania host a talk by Dr. Roderick Bailey on The Wild Province dedicated to 53 British martyrs who lost their life in Albania during the so-called Special Operations Executive mission, or the Secret Army of Churchill.

New documents about Albanians discovered in England

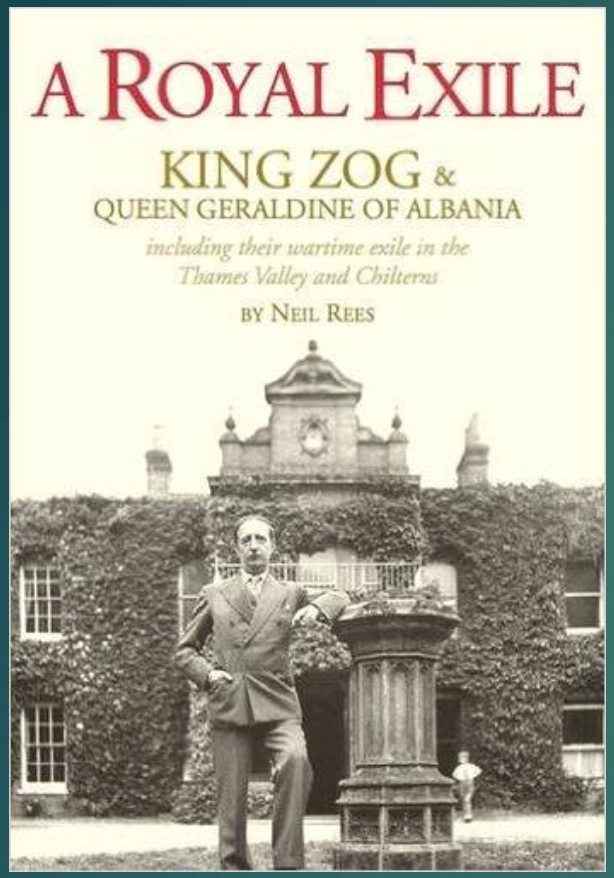


17 August 2012: Mr Bejtulla Destani (Embassy of Kosova) and Mr. Mal Berisha (Embassy of Albania) visit the Historic Archive of the Somerset Canton. They discovered important documents about the history of Albania, among them manuscripts of Aubrey Herbert, Albania's Greatest Friend.

Albania Revisited by Gilain Gloyer

12 April 2012: A book launch of a new edition of the Bradt Guide "*Albania Revisited*" hosted by the Embassy of Albania and the Anglo Albanian Association in the presence of the Albanian Minister of Culture.

“King Zog of Albania in Exile” a talk by Neil Rees



19 September 2012: The Embassy of Albania and the Anglo Albanian Association host a book launch of “*A Royal Exile*” by Neil Reiss.

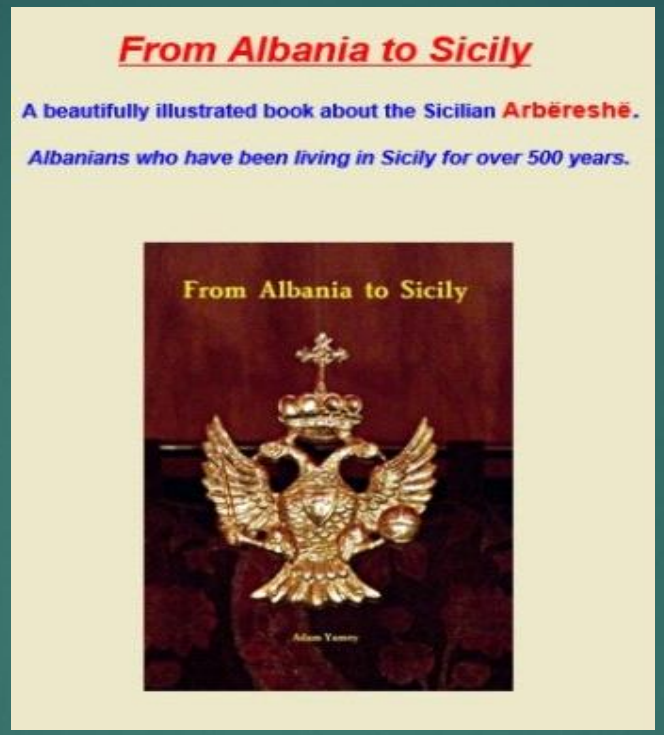
"*EDITH and I*", a book launched by the author, Elizabeth Gowing

2 October 2013: *"Edith and I"* written by Elisabeth Gowing, tell the love that Edith Durham and the author share for Albania, Kosova, and the Albanians.

A study on MUSINE KOKALARI by an American-British researcher

21 May 2014: The Embassy of Albania hosts a talk by Dr Agata Filjakowski, Professor of Criminology at Lancaster University on the Albanian dissident Musine Kokalari and the persecutions of the communist regime in Albania.

A book launch: *"From Albania to Sicily"* by Adam Yamey


From Albania to Sicily
A beautifully illustrated book about the Sicilian Arbëreshë.
Albanians who have been living in Sicily for over 500 years.
From Albania to Sicily

5 March 2015: The Embassy of Albania and AAA host a book launch *"From Albania to Sicily"* about the life of the Arberesh community in Southern Italy. Adam Yamey is a member of AAA with a great interest on Albanian history and culture.

The diplomat and writer ROBERT WILTON gives an exceptional talk at the Albanian Embassy

AMBASADA
E REPUBLIKËS SË SHQIPËRISË
LONDËR
EMBASSY
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
LONDON
London 15 August 2014
LETTER OF GRATITUDE
Elizabeth Cleary
Robert Wilton
The Embassy of the Republic of Albania to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland expresses its gratitude to Mrs. Elizabeth Cleaving and Mr. Robert Wilton, both English writers and historians, for their important contribution to Albanian literature and history.
Their presentations of the books "Edith and I", "Albanian Poetry" and "The Spider of Sarajevo", have enriched the cultural activities of our Embassy and gifted people with a better understanding about the history and legacy of Albania. These contributions have made us feel proud not only about our heritage but also about the friendship that we have made in this country through our cultural activities.
This is a small token of our gratitude to Elizabeth and Robert.

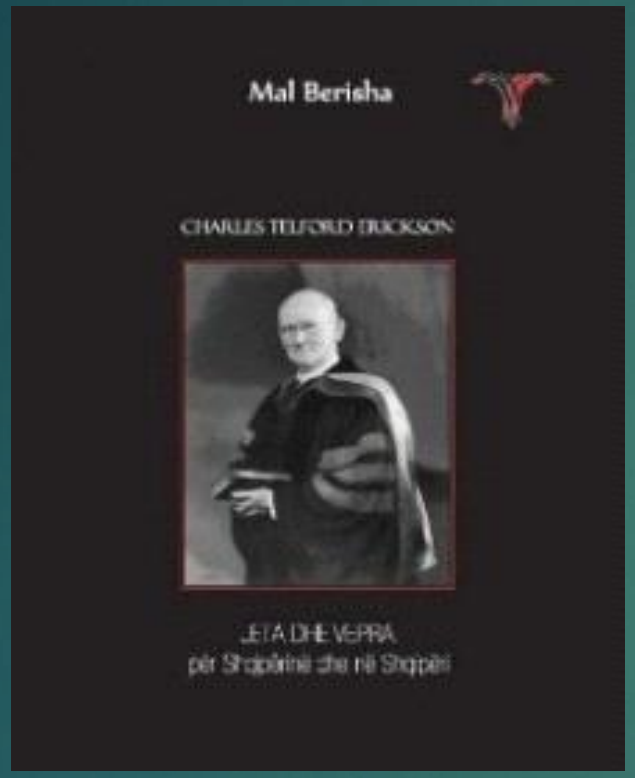
16 August 2014: Robert Wilton talks about Albanian literature and performs Albanian poems translated by him into English. The event includes also a presentation of his book *"The Spider of Sarajevo"* and its parts on Albanian history.

Dr David Shankland gives a talk about the life of MARGARET HASLUK

23 June 2014: David Shankland, Director of the Royal Institute of Anthropology gives a talk at the Albanian Embassy about a British woman who dedicated her life to Albania.

Books of Albanian authors launched at two Embassies

A book launch: Life of Charles Telford Erickson, by Mal Berisha



23 January 2013: The Embassy hosts a talk by Mal Berisha on his book "*Charles Telford Erickson – An American that dedicated his life to Albania*". The book was introduced by Sir Noel Malcolm.

Dr. Daut Dauti presents his book at the Albanian Embassy

21 March 2013: Embassies of Kosova and Albania organize a book launch of: *"Albanian issue in the British Diplomacy, 1877 – 1880"*, written by Daut Dauti.

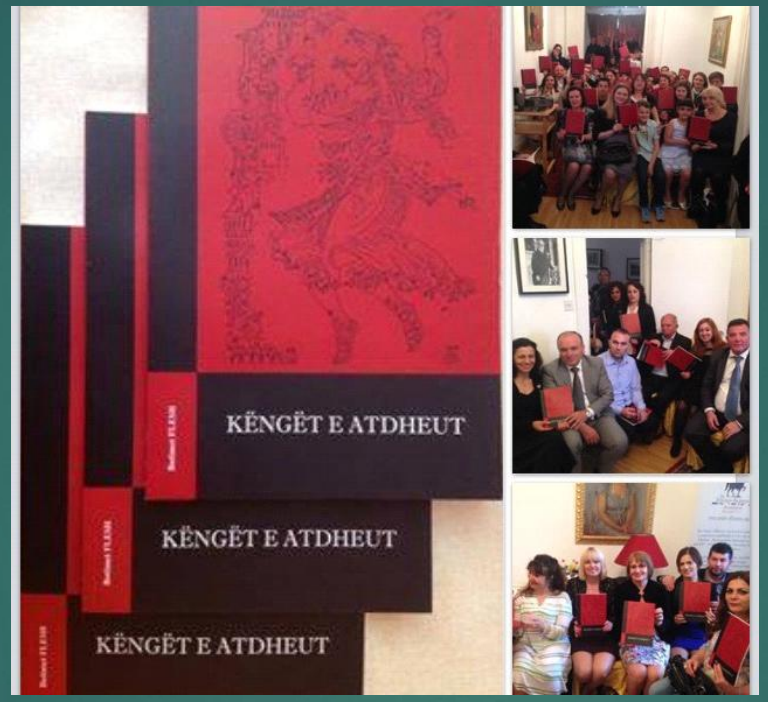
"THE ALBANIAN" Newspaper celebrates distinguished Albanians

16 May 2013: The Albanian newspaper launches the first edition of "*100 Albanians of Great Britain*" published by Petrit Kucana. O2 Arena, London.

The writer ARBËR AHMETAJ presents his books at the Albanian Embassy

12 October 2013: Arbër Ahmetaj, a resident in Switzerland meets his readers in the UK and talks about his books.

“KËNGËT E ATDHEUT” a collection of songs donated to the Albanian children in the United Kingdom



31 May 2015: Albanian musicians Adelina Hoxha and Robert Radoja present their collection of children’s songs published by Mr Flamur Hudhri, to the Albanian children living in the United Kingdom during a ceremony held at the Albanian Embassy in London.

Albania honours British Lords and friends

President of Albania awards remarkable British personalities

9 December 2014: The President of the Republic of Albania, HE Bujar Nishani presents national awards to Lord Watson of Richmond, Sir Noel Malcolm, Mr Stephen Nash, Mr David Lloyd, and Mr Alexander Duma for their contribution to Albanian-British relations and the promotion of Albanian historical and cultural values, during a ceremony held at the Albanian Embassy in London.

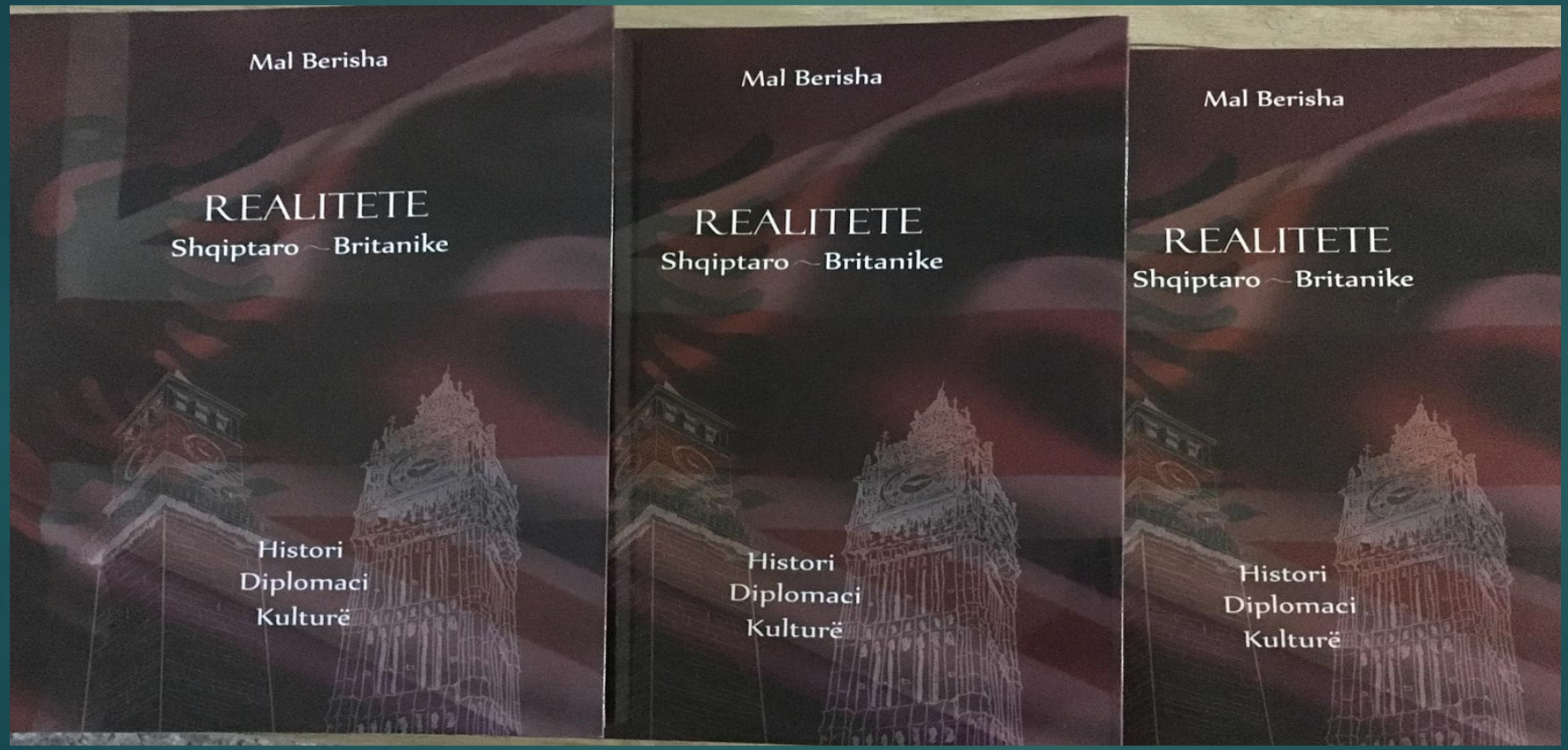
Flag raising ceremony in the London Borough of Walthamstow

28 November 2014: Albanian-British Cllr Kastriot Berberi raises the Albanian flag at the Borough of Walthamstow in the presence of Ambassador Mal Berisha and representatives of local authorities from London and Albania.

An evening on NORMAN WISDOM at the Albanian Embassy in London

17 December 2014: AAA and the Albanian Embassy host a film screening of *Trouble in Store* (1953) during an event to commemorate Norman Wisdom and his special relation with Albania. Former British Ambassador to Albania, Mr Stephen Nash, talks about Norman Wisdom's official visit to Albania in 1995.

A Diplomatic Book that concludes the Mission in United Kingdom, 30 October 2015.



The Ambassador of Kosova, HE Lirim Greicevci speaking at the Farewell Ceremony

30 October 2015: An evening kindly organized by the Albanian-British community to launch the book "REALITETE SHQIPTARO BRITANIKE" at the Regent University London.

Bidding Farewell to London

30 October 2015: An evening kindly organized by the Albanian-British community to bid farewell to Ambassador Mal Berisha and launch his book "REALITETE SHQIPTARO BRITANIKE" at the Regent University London.

With the Ambassador of Kosova HE **Lirim Greicevci**

Faleminderit!

Thank you!